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TO : Department of State

INFO : CINCSO FOR POLAD, Amembassy TEGUCIGALPA, SAN SALVADOR, MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, DOD

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

SUBJECT : Weekly Internal Security Report

REF :

Summary and Conclusions

1. After a few weeks of relative calm, the country was hit by a blast of violent incidents, a number of which involved people of some prominence and local government officials. There are indications that the FAR is behind some of this activity which could signal the beginning of a new series of such attacks. There is also some speculation that the violence in the Department of Chiquimula is the work of insurgents who may be based over the Honduran border.

Kidnap Attempts

2. Two of the more highly publicized cases were kidnap attempts on prominent Guatemalans in the capital. On November 9 at least 4 people, 2 dressed as nuns, tried to abduct Maria Marta Novela de Maegli from her Zone 10 home. Her screams brought her chauffeur, and the attackers fled but the chauffeur and one of the Maegli children were wounded as the would-be kidnappers opened up on the house to cover their retreat.

3. The other case occurred on November 11 when industrialist Pierre Maurice Bonin Cugno was shot and killed in front of his home in Zone 7. It is thought that his assassins were trying to kidnap him and that he was shot when he resisted. The Chief of the Judicial Police, Estuardo Garcia Gomez, has told the press that he believes the FAR to be behind both incidents.

4. Another pair of significant incidents occurred in the Department of Chiquimula where on November 15 a Comisionado Militar was assassinated in

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Comotán and the next day the mayor of Jocotán met the same fate. According to the press the local police suspect that the same group is responsible for both incidents and there is some talk that a guerrilla band operating from across the Honduran border may be responsible. Local politics is another possible cause, however. Both victims were members of the MLN and the party has declared three days of mourning.

5. Other political violence worth separate mention included the assassination of the deputy mayor of Retalhuleu and the discovery of the body of the leader of the PR in Mixco. He had been missing since October 29. There were also 2 assassinated bodies found and several other bombings, shootings, and acts of sabotage (see enclosure). The police did not have a particularly active week but they did arrest 4 more members of the gang that has been terrorizing the south coast and contiguous areas. Reportedly the gang's chief, Napoleon Villagran Pineda, was among the captured.

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Enclosure

LIST OF INCIDENTS

- Nov. 9 - Group of armed men entered house of Maria Angelina Portillo in Las Estancia, Dept. Jutiapa, shot and killed her and wounded her son. No motive known.
- 9 - Assassinated unidentified body located in Comolapa, Dept. Chimaltenango, Motive unknown.
- 9 - PR leader in Mixco, Dept. Guatemala, who disappeared October 29, found dead in Cuilapa, Dept. Santa Rosa. He was Miguel Angel Rivera Santos. Motive unknown.
- 9 - Auxiliary Mayor of Retalhuleu, Juan Ramirez Juarez machinegunned to death by 6 unknown men. It is believed they were attempting to kidnap him. Motive unknown.
- 9 - Attempt to kidnap wealthy Guatemalan lady failed. Two persons dressed as nuns and at least 2 other persons tried to kidnap Maria Martha Novella de Maegli. She screamed, her chauffeur came to her aid and the would-be kidnappers fled covering their retreat with gunshots which wounded chauffeur and one of the Maegli children. Chief of Judicial Police, Stuardo Garcia Gomez, told press the FAR was responsible.
- 10 - Police box at entrance to Escuintla fired on from passing car.
- 11 - Well known industrialist, Pierre Maurice Bonin Cugnod assassinated in front of his zone 7 home. It is thought his assailants intended to kidnap him and shot him when he resisted. Police report that a letter signed by the FAR demanding ransom was found at the scene.
- 11 - Automobile containing cans of gasoline and timing device designed to ignite them discovered and unarmed in zone 4. There is some speculation it may have been involved in the Bonin case. (see above)
- 12 - Zone 1 house of judicial official Hugo Leonel Maul Figueroa fired on by submachineguns and a commercial establishment also in Zone 1, owned by him bombed. Motive unknown.
- 13 - Police capture 3 more members of gang of thieves and murderers operating in south coast area.

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- 13 - Press reports Police are investigating a number of recent sabotage attempts on railroad equipment near Sanrate, Dept. El Progreso.
- 13 - Chief of vicious gangster gang that has been terrorizing south coast area reported captured by National Police. He was identified as Napoleon Villagran Pineda.
- 15 - Comisionado Militar of Comotan, Dept. Chiquimula, Isidro Carrera Guerra machinegunned to death by unknown men. Press reports local police suspect guerrillas.
- 15 - Body of Celestino Lopez Ortiz found shot dead in Canton San Miguel, Dept. Jalapa. Police say he was killed by unidentified band. Motive unknown.
- 16 - Mayor of Jocotan, Dept. Chiquimula (Enrique Vasquez Galvan) shot by masked gunman who entered his house at night. His daughter was wounded. Press speculates assassins same people who killed Comisionado Militar in Comotan, same Dept. Nov. 15. They were both members of the MLN and party has declared 3 days of mourning.

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